

RES22-189
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 340

BUDGET

BUDGET Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 24, 2022 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivindesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: ROAR RESCUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 24, 2022 @ 08:22 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Committee,

My name is Zhizi Xiong and I'm testifying in strong support on behalf of ROAR, Rescue Of Animal Rights, my startup grassroots animal rescue.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, the world's largest conservation organization, at the beginning of the 20th century, 500,000 rhinos roamed Africa and Asia. By 1970, rhino numbers dropped to 70,000, and today, around 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild. Black rhinos, the scientific name, Diceros Bicornis, the breed we have at the Honolulu Zoo, is one of the most endangered rhino species in the world. When it was realized that the black rhino was quickly disappearing, various rhino conservation strategies were developed. In Kenya, it is devastatingly low, the numbers are down from 18,000 to 20,000 in 1970 to 280 animals in the early 1980's. Very few rhinos survive because of hunting and habitat loss over many decades. These horned animals need protection. Animal conservation organizations & zoos work together to raise awareness about humane animal treatment and to stop hunting efforts.

WWF conducts research, including camera trap monitoring, which continues to reveal critical information about behavioral patterns, distribution, movement, population size, sex ratio, and genetic diversity of these species.

At the Honolulu Zoo, via their website, you can read about public awareness campaigns, improved communication systems, the encouraging of governments to adopt more stringent measures to protect the animals, grassroots initiatives, and the realization by conservationists that the only way to save the species is to build protected sanctuaries.

Educating local communities and governments about the importance of biodiversity and humane & effective management is crucial. Once it is shown that conservation programs can financially benefit a local population and that it is an investment in their children's' futures, they often become avid supporters of these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.